

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 17-22 remain pending.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Faye et al.

Claims 1-6 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Faye et al, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. 2004/0175601. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e), a published patent application filed by another is available as prior art as of the date it was filed in the United States. The earliest available United States filing date of the Faye application is its actual filing date of February 19, 2004, as there is no claim to an earlier United States patent application. Applicants filed their patent application at an earlier date, January 22, 2004. Therefore, the Faye patent application is not prior art and may not support a rejection of Applicants claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Faye et al.

Claims 7, 8, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Faye et al, U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. 2004/0175601. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, the Faye publication is not prior art to the present patent application and so cannot support a rejection under section 103. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Faye et al. in View of Kato et al.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Faye et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. 2004/0175601 in view of Kato et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. 2004/0053092. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

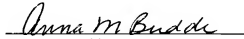
As discussed above, the Faye publication is not prior art to the present patent application and so cannot support a rejection under section 103. It has not been shown that the Kato publication alone makes Applicants' invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and reconsideration and allowance of claim 21.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this response is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at
(248) 641-1220 (direct line) or (248) 641-1600 (switchboard).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anna M. Budde", is written over a horizontal line.

Anna M. Budde

Registration No. 35,085

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Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600